

# World/Nation

## 800,000 Pages of John F. Kennedy Assassination Documents Released

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five days after John F. Kennedy's assassination, a Soviet defector working for the CIA speculated that the murder was instigated by the KGB to relieve internal pressures on Nikita Khrushchev, then the leader of the Soviet Union.

"Our President's death ... effectively diverts the Soviets' attention from their internal problems. It directly affects Khrushchev's longevity," wrote the CIA official, Peter Deryabin, in an eight-page, single-spaced typewritten memo to his superiors dated Nov. 27, 1963.

Deryabin was a Soviet KGB agent who defected to the West in 1954. He served as a consultant to the U.S. government, including the CIA, and wrote several books. He died about a year ago.

Deryabin's memo was stamped

"secret" and it offered no factual basis for his speculation that the Soviets were behind Lee Harvey Oswald's shooting of the President in Dallas.

Deryabin's memo came to light yesterday when the National Archives made public more than 800,000 pages of government documents concerning the assassination, as required under a 1992 law.

Included in the disclosure were files from the CIA and FBI; State Department; Defense Department; the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination; the follow-up 1975 Rockefeller Commission, Presidential libraries and congressional committees.

Deryabin's memo listed reasons why Kennedy's assassination would benefit the Soviets and advanced the idea that the

KGB, the Soviet Union's secret intelligence agency, may have instigated such an act while Oswald lived in the Soviet Union.

A former Marine, Oswald defected to Moscow for a period and then returned to the United States.

"The very real possibility also exists that Oswald was sent here on another mission by the KGB and subsequently accomplished the deed on his own initiative," Deryabin commented.

"However, such a possibility does not make the KGB less culpable as the seeds for Oswald's act must have been planted while he was trained in the USSR for his other mission.

"We might first examine the question uppermost in the minds of most Americans, 'what did the USSR have to gain by killing the President?'"

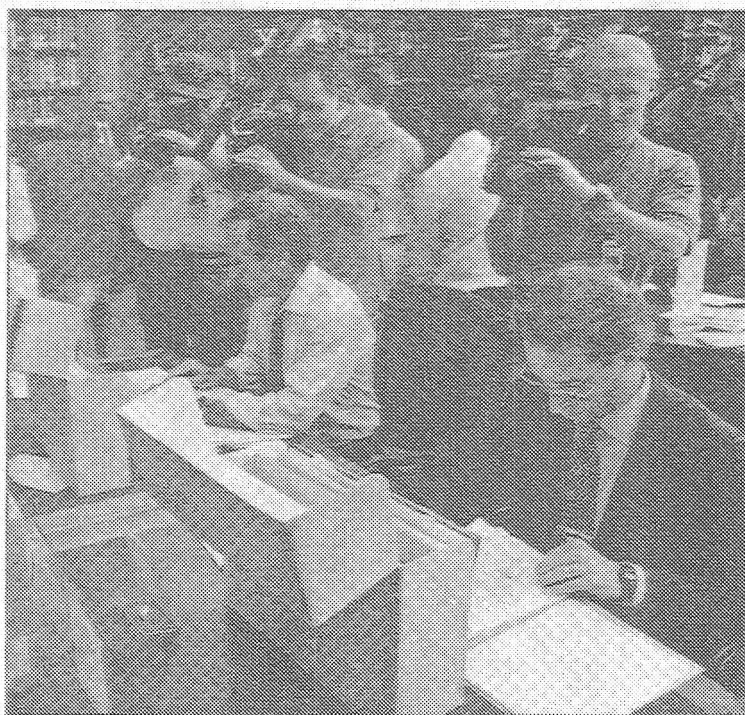
"I believe we can make a good case as to the precise gains accruing to the USSR and more specifically accruing to Khrushchev."

Deryabin's memo was signed just "Peter" over his typewritten signature. And it offered no evidence to indicate that his theory that the Soviets instigated the murder was anything but speculation.

It was written at a time when investigators from many branches of the government were speculating as to Oswald's possible motive for shooting Kennedy.

In the memo, Deryabin listed nine reasons why Kennedy's killing would benefit the Russians.

His first was that Western pressure, led by America, "would automatically ease up," adding, "witness President Johnson's immediate conciliatory telegram to Khrushchev after the murder."



AP Photo

**JFK PAPERS** — As cameramen take aim and members of the media look on, researchers yesterday look through notes pertaining to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy at the National Archives in Washington.